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Beyond the **poverty line**

India's gains in poverty reduction have yet to translate into secure livelihoods and a better standard of living

Graph 1: Decline in poverty rates across three income thresholds between 2011 and 2023

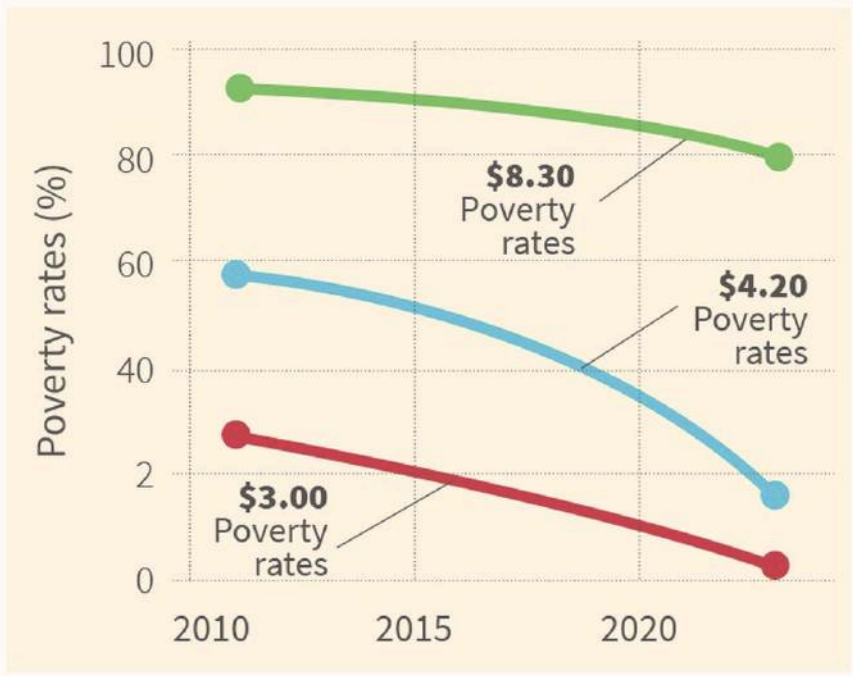


Table 1: The $4.20–$8.30 income group accounts for the largest share of India's prosperity gap

Band (2023)	Share of people	Factor needed	Contribution to 4.9
Below $3.00	2.6%	at least 9.3	at least 0.24
$3.00 to $4.20	13.5%	6.7 to 9.3	0.90 to 1.26
$4.20 to $8.30	63.9%	3.4 to 6.7	about 2.2 to 4.3
Above $8.30	20.0%	below 3.4	at most 0.67

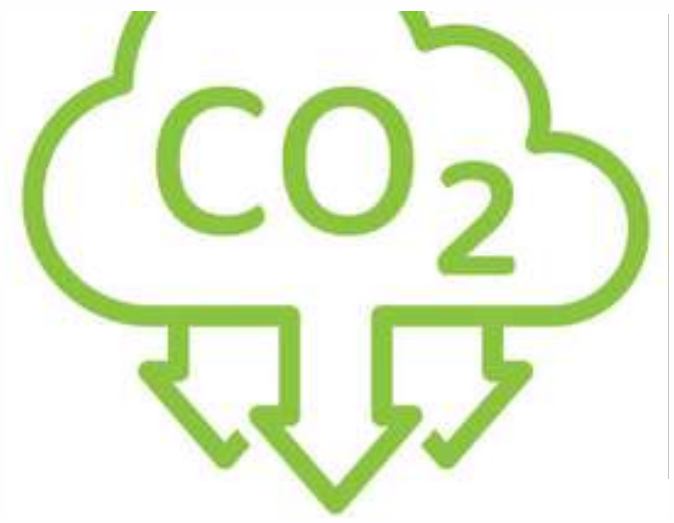
Editor's Note

Today's edition of the Pala Civil Times brings you a range of topics drawn from recent national and international headlines. To begin with, our National section examines India's widening poverty–prosperity gap, highlighting the growing disparities between the haves and have-nots. Moving to the Health section, we explore why India's anaemia reduction efforts cannot rely solely on fortified salt and examine the concerns surrounding this intervention, while emphasising the need for a more balanced approach.

In our trusted Editorial Decoder section, we examine India's position in the Israel–Palestine conflict, particularly as the latest UN report calls for action by member states to address the ongoing genocide. We also analyse how the upcoming COP31 and the proposed '35 by 2035' target could shape India's climate goals and commitments. Further, the Economics section explores how the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership could open new avenues for carbon market cooperation while also presenting significant challenges.

This is a packed edition featuring critical analyses, practice questions to test your understanding and previous years' questions to strengthen your connection with the examination mindset. We hope you give it a thorough read. Happy reading!

P8. ECONOMICS



BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership

The BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership offers an opportunity to strengthen South-South cooperation, improve carbon accounting and address the trade implications of unilateral climate measures.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU

The Indian EXPRESS



Damning report: On Justice Muralidhar's report on Israeli atrocities

The findings of the UN Commission highlight the urgent need for international accountability, civilian protection and stronger regulation of emerging technologies in armed conflicts.



Look beyond old climate fault lines

At COP31 and beyond, india should strengthen its climate commitments while leveraging international institutions to advance the interests of the Global South.

From poverty alleviation to prosperity

India has recorded a substantial decline in income-based poverty, with nearly 496 million people estimated to have moved out of poverty between 2011 and 2023, according to the World Bank's latest Poverty and Equity Brief. However, the persistence of a significant prosperity gap highlights the structural barriers that prevent people from converting poverty reduction into sustained socio-economic mobility.

> India's development must be assessed not merely through the number of people escaping extreme poverty but also through their ability to achieve economic security and a better quality of life.

India's Progress in Poverty Reduction

Decline in Extreme Poverty: According to the World Bank, extreme income poverty, measured at $3 per person per day (2021 PPP), declined to 2.6% in 2023, with an estimated 496 million people moving out of poverty between 2011 and 2023.

Lower-Middle-Income Poverty: The proportion of people living below the $4.20 per day poverty line declined from 57.7% to 16.1% during the same period.

Multidimensional Poverty: The Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) Multidimensional Poverty Index recorded a decline in India's multidimensional poverty from 53.8% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21.

Significance: *These figures indicate substantial progress in reducing deprivation, although the extent of poverty depends on the income threshold used for measurement.*

Poverty Measurement and the Prosperity Gap

Different Poverty Thresholds: The World Bank uses different poverty lines according to countries' income classifications: $3 per day for low-income countries, $4.20 for lower-middle-income countries and $8.30 for upper-middle-income countries.

India's Position at Higher Thresholds: At the $8.30 per day upper-middle-income poverty line, approximately 80% of India's population remains below the threshold. *At the approximate conversion used in the assessment, $8.30 per day translates to around ₹800 per person per day or ₹24,000 per month.*

Poverty versus Prosperity: Moving above the extreme poverty line establishes a basic improvement in living conditions but does not necessarily indicate secure employment, adequate purchasing power or access to better socio-economic opportunities.

Understanding the World Bank's Prosperity Gap

Global Benchmark: The World Bank uses a prosperity benchmark of $28 per person per day in 2021 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms.

India's Prosperity Gap: India's prosperity gap stands at 4.9, indicating that average consumption needs to increase by a factor of 4.9 to reach the benchmark.

Distributional Significance: Improvements in the incomes of poorer sections contribute more significantly to reducing the prosperity gap, making it sensitive to inequalities in economic progress.

Concentration Below Prosperity: In 2023, approximately 2.6% of Indians lived below $3 per day, 16.1% below $4.20 and 80% below $8.30. Around 63.9% of the population fell between the $4.20 and $8.30 thresholds.

Underlying Concern: A large section of the population has escaped extreme poverty but remains far from the income or consumption levels associated with prosperity.

Table 1: The $4.20–$8.30 income group accounts for the largest share of India's prosperity gap

Band (2023)	Share of people	Factor needed	Contribution to 4.9
Below $3.00	2.6%	at least 9.3	at least 0.24
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$4.20 to $8.30	63.9%	3.4 to 6.7	about 2.2 to 4.3
Above $8.30	20.0%	below 3.4	at most 0.67

Labour Market Constraints and Limited Economic Mobility

Weak Employment Quality: The World Bank brief observes broadly stagnant economic growth, econcentration of job growth in low-productivity activities and increase in youth unemployment from 14.6% to 15.9% between FY2026 and 2027.

High Informality: The International Labour Organization's (ILO) India Employment Report 2024 found that approximately 90% of Indian workers were informally employed, with self-employment accounting for 55.8% of total employment in 2022.

Distress-Driven Employment: The share of unpaid family helpers among all workers increased from 12.41% in 2017–18 to 17.10% in 2023–24.

Stagnant Real Wages: The ILO report found that real wages of regular salaried workers remained stagnant or declined between 2012 and 2022, limiting improvements in purchasing power.

Structural Barriers to Economic Prosperity

Low-Productivity Economic Structure: A large workforce remains concentrated in low-productivity agriculture and informal non-farm activities, while manufacturing has not generated sufficient productive employment to absorb surplus labour.

Precarious and Distress Employment: High informality, widespread self-employment and the increasing share of unpaid family helpers indicate that employment does not necessarily provide stable or adequate incomes.

Human Capital Constraints: High household expenditure on private education and healthcare does not always translate into quality services, effective human capital development or better employment opportunities.

Skill–Job Mismatch and Youth Unemployment: Gaps between educational qualifications and labour-market requirements, combined with inadequate employment opportunities, prevent individuals from converting their educational investments into better livelihoods.

Social and Regional Inequalities: Caste-based barriers, gender discrimination and unequal access to education, healthcare, infrastructure and productive employment restrict economic mobility.

Way Forward

Promoting Quality Employment: Strengthen labour formalisation, productivity, job security and real wage growth, particularly by expanding employment opportunities for young people.

Strengthening Human Capital: Improve the affordability, accessibility and quality of education and healthcare to ensure that household investments translate into meaningful socio-economic gains.

Inclusive Growth and Social Security: Improve the earnings of disadvantaged sections, reduce regional inequalities and strengthen social protection for informal workers and vulnerable households.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): (2026)

1. MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

Q. Distinguish between the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) with special reference to India. Why is the IHDI considered a better indicator of inclusive growth? (GS III - 2025)

Anaemia burden — iron alone is no solution

India faces a significant anaemia burden, particularly among women and children. Double-Fortified Salt (DFS), which combines iodine and iron, has been proposed as a convenient intervention to address iron deficiency. However, its effectiveness and safety raise concerns due to excessive salt consumption, the risks of iron accumulation, differences in dietary absorption and the multiple causes of anaemia.

Anaemia Burden and the Proposal for Double-Fortified Salt

Prevalence: The fifth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) found that more than half of Indian women and about two-thirds of young children are anaemic.

Double-Fortified Salt: DFS is fortified with both iodine and iron and is proposed as a convenient way to deliver iron through everyday salt consumption.

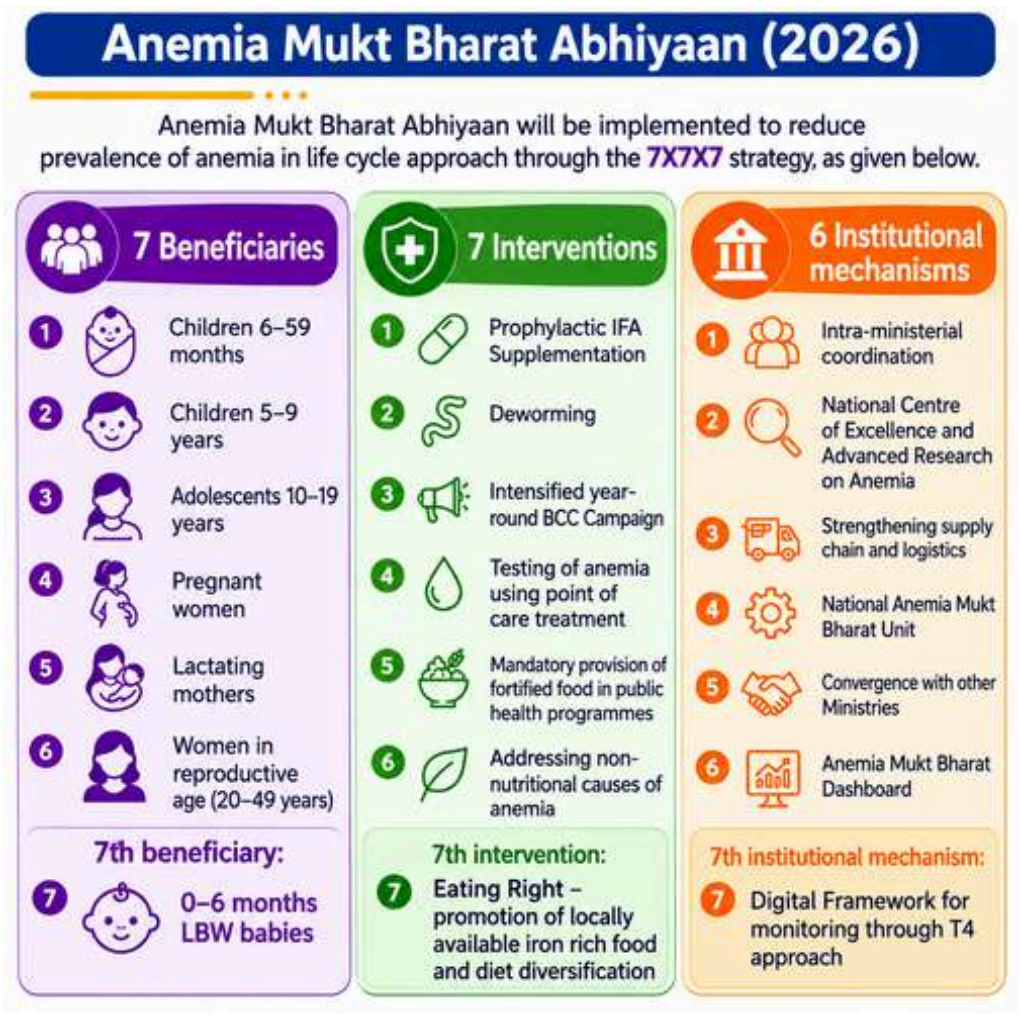
Underlying Concern: The convenience of salt as a delivery vehicle does not necessarily establish the effectiveness or safety of iron fortification.

Public Health Concerns Associated with DFS

Excessive Salt Consumption: Indians consume approximately twice the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommended daily salt limit of 5 grams, while nearly one-third of adults have hypertension.

Conflict with Health Goals: India's non-communicable disease action plan aims for a 30% relative reduction in salt intake. Promoting DFS could undermine efforts to reduce sodium consumption.

Unequal Iron Intake: Adult men generally consume more salt, while women and young children consume less.



Effect of Inflammation: The hormone hepcidin restricts iron absorption during infections and inflammation, potentially reducing fortification effectiveness in populations with high infection burdens.

Potential Health Risks of Excessive Iron Intake

Iron Accumulation: Unlike some nutrients, the human body has no regulated mechanism to excrete excess iron. Iron accumulation can promote oxidative stress and is associated with metabolic health risks.

Evidence from International Studies: The 2006 Pemba trial in Tanzania associated iron and folic acid supplementation among children in a malaria-endemic setting with increased hospitalisations and deaths. A 2015 Kenyan study found that iron-fortified foods altered infant gut bacteria towards potentially harmful organisms and increased diarrhoea.

Malaria and Infection Risks: Iron fortification requires particular caution in malaria-endemic and poorly sanitised regions, where infections may influence its safety and effectiveness.

Haemoglobinopathies: People with beta-thalassaemia and sickle cell disease may face additional risks. Those with thalassaemia, particularly individuals receiving repeated blood transfusions, are vulnerable to iron overload.

Cumulative Iron Exposure Through Government Programmes

Multiple Delivery Channels: Iron is already provided through fortified rice distributed under the PDS, Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), alongside iron-folic acid supplementation programmes.

Lack of Assessment: *The absence of adequate published analysis of cumulative iron intake across these programmes makes a nationwide DFS rollout premature.*

Limitations of Iron Absorption from DFS

Non-Haem Iron: DFS contains non-haem iron, whose absorption depends heavily on the composition of the meal.

Dietary Inhibitors: Phytates in cereals, millets and pulses, polyphenols in tea and coffee, and calcium in milk can reduce iron absorption.

Limited Bioavailability: Since salt is consumed with food, a considerable proportion of its iron may remain unabsorbed and reach the colon, potentially affecting gut microbial balance.

Practical Implementation Gaps: Household cooking losses, uneven dosing and variations in dietary patterns can reduce the effectiveness observed in controlled efficacy trials.

Effect of Inflammation: The hormone hepcidin restricts iron absorption during infections and inflammation, potentially reducing fortification effectiveness in populations with high infection burdens.

Anaemia Has Multiple Causes Beyond Iron Deficiency

Iron Deficiency Is Only One Cause: Approximately half of anaemia cases globally are attributed to iron deficiency. India's Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (2016–18) also found that iron deficiency explains only part of anaemia among children and adolescents.

Other Nutritional Deficiencies: Folate and vitamin B12 deficiencies, particularly relevant in vegetarian populations, contribute to anaemia.

Infections and Diseases: Chronic inflammation, recurrent infections, hookworm, malaria and poor sanitation are additional causes.

Other Contributing Factors: Haemoglobinopathies, overall undernutrition, inadequate protein and vitamin A intake, early marriage, pregnancy, adolescent undernutrition and menstrual blood loss also contribute.

Measurement Challenges: Differences in haemoglobin measurement methods and diagnostic cut-offs can influence reported anaemia prevalence.

Gaps in India's Existing Anaemia Control Strategy

7x7x7 Approach: India's revised anaemia strategy deserves recognition for incorporating multiple interventions rather than focusing exclusively on iron supplementation. (refer the image on page 4)

Supplementation Challenges: The programme continues to depend substantially on iron-folic acid tablets despite compliance difficulties and gastrointestinal side effects.

Diagnostic Limitations: Haemoglobin testing alone cannot establish the cause of anaemia. Routine testing for ferritin, vitamin B12 and inflammation markers remains limited.

Dietary Affordability: Nutrition awareness initiatives such as 'Eat Right' need to address the affordability and accessibility of diverse foods, including eggs, dairy, green vegetables and millets. Implementation Gaps: Digital monitoring often prioritises the number of tests and tablets distributed rather than actual health outcomes. Deworming, malaria control, sanitation and hygiene also require greater attention.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of ‘National Nutrition Mission’? (2017)

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only
b) 1, 2 and 3 only
c) 1, 2 and 4 only
d) 3 and 4 only

Damning report: On Justice Muralidhar's report on Israeli atrocities

The latest report of the United Nations International Commission of Inquiry on Israel and the Palestinian territories has highlighted continuing violations against Palestinian civilians, including alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The findings raise concerns about the lack of international accountability, the limitations of the United Nations system and India's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Findings of the UN Commission of Inquiry

UN Report: Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar, Chairperson of the UN International Commission of Inquiry, briefed the UNGA on the Commission's report, which alleged continuing war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide by Israeli security forces a year after the October 2025 ceasefire.

Evidence Examined: The Commission relied on medical records, satellite imagery, forensic analysis, witness testimonies and videos posted by Israeli soldiers.

Targeting of Civilians: The report alleges that Israeli soldiers targeted Palestinian civilians, including infants, using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to identify targets and carry out killings with impunity.

Human Casualties: According to Justice Muralidhar, more than 75,000 Palestinians, including 21,500 children and 11,000 women, have been killed across Palestinian territories since 2023.

Recommendations of the Commission

Preventing Genocide: The Commission called on UN member-states to employ all available means to prevent genocide.

Accountability: It urged countries to investigate and prosecute individuals suspected of involvement in genocide.

Regulating AI: It called for clear international rules governing the use of AI in armed conflicts.

Arms Transfers and Sanctions: Earlier recommendations included halting military transfers to Israel and imposing sanctions on individuals linked to abuses against children.

International Criminal Court (ICC): The Commission urged cooperation with the ICC to enforce arrest warrants against Israeli officials and soldiers.

Limitations of International Action

UNGA Constraints: The UN General Assembly lacks the executive authority to directly enforce measures against Israel.

UNSC Deadlock: The United Nations Security Council remains divided, largely because of the United States' support for Israel.

Restrictions on International Engagement: The United States withheld a visa to Justice Muralidhar, preventing him from presenting the report to the UNGA in person.

India's Position on the Israel-Palestine Conflict

Diplomatic Balancing: India has supported Palestinian rights and provided humanitarian assistance while avoiding adversary effects to its strategic relations with Israel.

Abstentions at the UN: India has abstained from resolutions calling for a ceasefire and measures against Israel.

Continued Defence Cooperation: India has continued supplying Israel with arms, ammunition, ordnance and drone components.

Official Silence: The Ministry of External Affairs has neither directly criticised Israel's actions nor commented on the findings of the UN Commission chaired by Justice Srinivasan Muralidhar and his predecessor, Navanethem Pillay.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. The term "two state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of
a) China
b) Israel
c) Iraq
d) Yemen

Look beyond old climate fault lines

The Indian EXPRESS

India's position on the proposed global **'35 by 2035'** electrification target highlights the challenges of balancing climate commitments with national developmental priorities. The issue also brings into focus the differences between developed and developing countries in their approaches to energy transition, climate finance and technology transfer.

The Proposed '35 by 2035' Target

Global Initiative: Proposed by the COP31 co-presidencies, Turkey and Australia, the target aims to increase electricity's share in global energy consumption from 23% in 2023 to 35% by 2035.

Purpose: It seeks to accelerate electrification as a means of reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change:

I. India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

II. India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.

III. Climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

1. Statement I is empirically supported by statement II.
2. Statement III contradicts the approach implicit in statement I.
3. Statement I and statement III together establish the premise of long-term sustainability.

Select the answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 (c) 2 and 3 (d) 3 only

India's Position and Priorities

No Commitment Yet: Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav stated that India is yet to decide whether to support the proposed target.

National Sovereignty: India maintains that countries must consider their national circumstances, sovereignty and poverty-eradication programmes before accepting global targets.

Renewable Energy Priority: Unlike countries emphasising electrification, India has prioritised renewable energy expansion without committing to a fixed share of electricity in its overall energy mix.

India's Climate Commitments and Global Criticism

Progress under the Paris Agreement: India is among a small group of countries that have made steady progress in fulfilling their climate commitments, particularly energy-related targets.

Criticism of Ambition: India's early achievement of its targets has led to criticism that its original climate commitments were not sufficiently ambitious.

Unequal Climate Responsibilities: Such criticism overlooks the renewable energy bottlenecks in developed countries and the Global North's continued failure to fulfil its financial and technology commitments to developing countries.

Strategic Importance of Climate Leadership

Developmental Interests: More urgent climate action is essential for India's own developmental and strategic interests.

Global South Leadership: Climate action provides India with an opportunity to strengthen its leadership among developing countries.

Institutional Platforms: India should leverage the full potential of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to strengthen international climate cooperation.

BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership: Cooperation, Carbon Border Measures and India's Emerging Carbon Market

The proposed BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership seeks to strengthen cooperation among emerging economies in carbon pricing, emissions reduction and climate finance. Its significance lies in the growing use of Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms (CBAMs) by developed economies, which makes credible domestic carbon pricing and emissions accounting increasingly important for international trade. For India, the recognition of its Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) by the United Kingdom offers an opportunity to strengthen its carbon market while addressing compliance challenges, particularly for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

BRICS Partnership: Objectives and Concerns over CBAMs

New Delhi Declaration: The 18th BRICS Summit, held on September 12, reiterated members' commitment to implementing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the BRICS Carbon Markets Partnership.

Objectives: The partnership seeks to promote capacity building, exchange expertise and share experiences in carbon markets.

Climate Finance: BRICS has also encouraged dialogue on connecting carbon markets with climate adaptation, extending discussions beyond emissions reduction and carbon pricing.

Opposition to CBAMs: The declaration opposed unilateral, punitive, discriminatory and protectionist climate-related trade measures, particularly CBAMs, which could raise export costs and create additional trade barriers.

Climate Justice: BRICS maintains that developing economies should retain the freedom to determine their energy transition pathways according to their developmental priorities.

Nature of Commitment: The partnership currently focuses on cooperation and capacity building. It does not establish a common trading framework, quantified targets or an implementation timeline.

CBAMs and India's Emerging Carbon Pricing Framework

EU and UK Mechanisms: The European Union's definitive CBAM regime commenced on January 1, 2026, covering cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen. The United Kingdom is scheduled to introduce its CBAM on January 1, 2027.

Underlying Mechanism: CBAMs impose carbon-related costs on imports according to their embedded greenhouse gas emissions, while allowing qualifying carbon prices already paid in the country of production to be considered.

UK Recognition of India's CCTS: In August 2026, the UK recognised India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) as a qualifying overseas carbon pricing scheme under its emerging CBAM framework.

Significance and Limitations: Recognition gives India's carbon pricing framework greater international standing and reduces the risk of double charging. However, the financial benefit may remain limited if India's effective carbon price is lower than the applicable UK carbon price.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with regard to BRICS;
I. 16th BRICS Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.
II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.
III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) I and II (b) II and III (c) I and III (d) I only

Diversity of National Carbon Markets within BRICS

Existing Experience: Brazil, China, India and Indonesia together host more than one-third of the carbon credit projects registered worldwide. However, their domestic carbon markets differ significantly in design and regulation.

National Systems: China's Emissions Trading System (ETS) expanded to steel, cement and aluminium under its 2024–25 allocation plan. India's CCTS has notified emission-intensity targets for 490 entities across nine sectors and introduced an offset mechanism. Brazil's 2024 legislation established the Brazilian Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System (SBCE) under a cap-and-trade framework.

Different Market Designs: China and India rely on output-based emissions-intensity benchmarks, whereas Brazil is developing an absolute emissions cap.

Different Offset Rules: China accepts only China Certified Emission Reduction credits in its compliance market. India permits projects that began after January 1, 2025, subject to exclusivity requirements. Brazil proposes accepting credits under methodologies accredited by a designated body.

Regulatory Differences: Carbon units also have different legal and institutional status. Brazil's market involves securities regulation, while India's carbon credit certificates are traded through power exchanges under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulations.

Interoperability Gap: BRICS members have not linked their carbon markets. Consequently, identical emissions reductions may be measured, classified or recognised differently across jurisdictions.

Building a Common Carbon Accounting Framework

Common MRV Standards: Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) should be the partnership's first major deliverable, enabling emissions reductions to be assessed consistently across countries and sectors.

Mutual Recognition: Members could recognise verifiers accredited by their respective national accreditation bodies, reducing duplication in verification procedures.

Interoperable Registries: Harmonising registry data, including carbon-unit serial numbers and retirement records, would improve transparency and prevent double issuance.

Existing Foundation: The 2025 BRICS Principles for Fair, Inclusive and Transparent Carbon Accounting already emphasise comparable assessment of producers under similar conditions, granular default values and interoperable accounting systems.

Trade Significance: Common accounting standards would provide BRICS with a collective reference point in negotiations with external regulators and help exporters follow more consistent compliance procedures.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements: (2023)

Statement-I: Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change.

Statement-II: Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement I

c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements about Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): (2026)

1. MPI is calculated using Alkire-Foster methodology.
2. MPI calculated by NITI Aayog has a total of twelve indicators.
3. Maternal Health and Bank Account are common indicators in the MPI of NITI Aayog and MPI of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 2 only

Ans : a

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) is computed using the Alkire Foster methodology, developed by Sabina Alkire and James Foster at the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. NITI Aayog's National MPI uses 12 indicators under three dimensions— Health, Education, and Standard of Living. Although it broadly follows the structure of the Global MPI, it incorporates modifications tailored to India's context.

The Global MPI, published jointly by United Nations Development Programme and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, employs 10 indicators across the same three dimensions.

The Bank Account indicator is unique to NITI Aayog's framework and is not included in the Global MPI. Similarly, Maternal Health (ANC) is specific to NITI Aayog's methodology and is absent from the UNDP framework.

Q. The term "two state solution" is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

a) China
b) Israel
c) Iraq
d) Yemen

Ans : b

Two state solution is the preferred solution adopted for the ArabIsrael conflict by creation of states of Israel and Palestine.

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Which of the following are the objectives of 'National Nutrition Mission'? (2017)

1. To create awareness relating to malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers.
2. To reduce the incidence of anemia among young children, adolescent girls and women.
3. To promote the consumption of millets, coarse cereals and unpolished rice.
4. To promote the consumption of poultry eggs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 1, 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only

d) 3 and 4 only

Ans : a

The objectives of the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) (also known as POSHAN Abhiyaan) include:

1. Creating awareness about malnutrition among pregnant women and lactating mothers: This is one of the core objectives of NNM to address malnutrition through awareness and behavior change.

2. Reducing the incidence of anemia: The mission aims to decrease anemia among young children, adolescent girls, and women through better nutrition and healthcare measures. What is not included:

3. Promoting the consumption of millets, coarse cereals, and unpolished rice: While these are promoted under different agricultural or food security schemes, they are not specific objectives of the National Nutrition Mission.

4. Promoting the consumption of poultry eggs: This is also not an explicit objective of NNM.

Hence, only statements 1 and 2 are correct. The correct answer is: a) 1 only

PYQ COMPASS

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to India's response to climate change:

I. India's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) is a crucial tool for achieving net-zero emissions by 2070.

II. India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) submitted in December, 2024 recorded around 8% decrease in Greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 over 2019.

III. Climate-resilient development necessarily depends on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct?

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Select the answer using the code given below:

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(c) 2 and 3
(d) 3 only

Ans : b

India submitted its Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy (LT LEDS) at the COP27 held in Sharm El Sheikh in 2022 under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. It is a long-term roadmap prepared by countries to: achieve climate goals, pursue economic development, reduce greenhouse gas emissions over time, align with the Paris Agreement temperature goals. It is generally targeted toward the mid-century period (around 2050–2070).

India submitted its 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) to the UNFCCC on 30th December 2024. The report shows a 7.93% reduction in total GHG emissions in 2020 with respect to 2019.

Statement 3 is not correct: Climate resilient development does not necessarily depend on quick and short-term achievement of emission reduction targets.

PYQ COMPASS

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d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Ans : b

Statement-I: Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change. This is Correct. Carbon markets, such as cap-and-trade and carbon credit trading, are seen as essential tools to incentivize emission reductions and address climate change globally.

Statement-II: Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State. This is Correct. Carbon markets involve the private sector buying carbon credits or allowances from the government or regulatory bodies, effectively transferring resources from businesses to the state. However, this is not the main or sole purpose of carbon markets, as they also allow private sector entities to invest in emission reductions and trade credits for profit.

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II. Indonesia has become a full member of BRICS.

III. The theme of the 16th BRICS Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) I and II (b) II and III (c) I and III (d) I only

Ans : a

The 16th BRICS Summit, and the First Summit with expanded BRICS membership took place in Kazan, from October 22–24, 2024, with Russia as the chair. Hence statement 1 is correct. Indonesia has officially joined BRICS, becoming the first Southeast Asian member. This move was announced by Brazil, the 2025 BRICS presidency holder. Indonesia's entry was endorsed by BRICS leaders at the 2023 Johannesburg summit. Hence statement 2 is correct. The actual theme was “Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security.” The word was multilateralism, not multiculturalism. Hence statement 3 is not correct.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to the revised Anemia Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, consider the following statements:

1. Low Birth Weight babies aged 0–6 months have been included as a beneficiary group.
2. Men of reproductive age constitute one of the seven beneficiary groups.
3. The 'Eating Right' approach promotes locally available iron-rich foods and dietary diversification.
4. The revised programme adopts a T4 approach consisting of Test, Treat, Talk and Track.
5. Strengthening digital monitoring and tracking forms part of its institutional framework.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only (c) 2, 3 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (b) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

- Statement 1 is correct: Low Birth Weight babies aged 0–6 months are the seventh beneficiary group under the revised framework.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The seven beneficiary groups comprise children aged 6–59 months, children aged 5–9 years, adolescents aged 10–19 years, pregnant women, lactating women, women of reproductive age (20–49 years) and Low Birth Weight babies aged 0–6 months.
- Statement 3 is correct: Eating Right is a new intervention that encourages locally available iron-rich foods and dietary diversification.
- Statement 4 is correct: The earlier T3 approach (Test, Treat and Talk) has been expanded to T4 by adding Track.
- Statement 5 is correct: Digital monitoring and tracking, including beneficiary follow-up, form part of the revised institutional framework.

Q. With reference to the international poverty thresholds used by the World Bank, consider the following statements:

1. The $3.00 per person per day threshold represents the international extreme poverty line.
2. The $4.20 threshold is associated with the lower-middle-income country poverty line.
3. The $8.30 threshold is associated with the upper-middle-income country poverty line.
4. A reduction in the proportion of people below the extreme poverty line necessarily indicates that the majority of the population has achieved economic prosperity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3 only (b) 1 and 4 only (c) 2, 3 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct: These are the World Bank's international poverty thresholds expressed in 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP) terms.
- Statement 4 is incorrect: Moving above the extreme poverty threshold does not necessarily imply economic prosperity. A significant section of the population may remain vulnerable to economic shocks, insecure employment, low wages and inadequate access to quality public services.